



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/677,831	09/29/2000	Stephane Maes	24530.00300	5226

7590 08/27/2004

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EXAMINER

CUMMING, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2683

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**DETAILED ACTION**  
***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

2. Pursuant to applicant's request filed on June 21, 2004, action by the Office is suspended on this application under 37 CFR 1.103(a) for a period of three months. At the end of this period, applicants are required to notify the examiner and request continuance of prosecution or a further suspension. See MPEP § 709.

**3. Patent Application Publications May Now Include Amendments**

As a consequence of the use of Image File Wrappers (IFW), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) has begun to publish patent applications with amendments that expedite the publication process. For example, the patent application publication may be based upon amendments to the specification that are reflected in a substitute specification, an amendment to the abstract, amendments to the claims that are reflected in a complete claim listing, and amendments to the drawings that are reflected in replacement drawing sheets, provided that such substitute specification or amendment is submitted in sufficient time to be entered into the application file wrapper before technical preparations for publication of the application have begun. Technical preparations for publication of an application generally begin between fourteen and nine weeks prior to the projected date of publication (the projected publication date is indicated on the filing receipt for the patent application). Accordingly, the provisions 37 CFR 1.215(a) are waived to the extent that they are inconsistent with this change in practice. 37 CFR 1.215(a) will be revised consistent with this change in practice, when the rule changes proposed in

Changes To Support Implementation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office 21st Century Strategic Plan, 68 Fed. Reg. 53816 (Sept. 12, 2003), 1275 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 23 (Oct 7, 2003) are made final.

Although the Office has begun to include amendments in patent application publications, applicants desiring to ensure that a patent application publication reflects an amendment should submit the application, as amended, through the Electronic Filing System (EFS). See 37 CFR 1.215(c). See also Helpful Hints Regarding Publication of Patent Applications, 1249 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 83 (August 21, 2001). In addition, if the application is not maintained in an IFW, and the amended application is not submitted through EFS, a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 will continue to be necessary for certain drawings to be included in the patent application publication. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 507 (8th ed. 2001, rev. 1, Feb. 2003).

General questions regarding publication of patent applications should be directed to the Customer Service Center, Office of Patent Publication, by telephone at (703) 305-8283. Questions regarding the Electronic Filing System should be directed to (703) 305-3028. Questions of a legal nature should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 308-6906.

#### **4. Elimination of Post Office Box in Arlington, Virginia for Patent Related Correspondence**

Effective June 1, 2004, the Office will cease accepting patent-related correspondence addressed to the P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202. Effective May 1, 2003, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.1, patent-related correspondence should have been addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Accordingly, as of May 1, 2003, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.8 (Certificate of Mailing) and 1.10 (Express Mail certificate) that were waived by the Office were no longer waived for correspondence addressed to P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

In November of 2001, the Office established a Post Office Box in Arlington, Virginia (P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202) for use on an emergency basis, and indicated that the Office would continue to accept patent-related correspondence at this Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box and treat such correspondence as if it were addressed as set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 for purposes of 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10 until further notice. On March 25, 2003, the Office provided notice that persons submitting correspondence to the Office should no longer use the Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box for any correspondence (including sequence listings in electronic format) after May 1, 2003. See Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

Correspondence in patent-related matters to organizations reporting to the Commissioner for Patents must be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Appropriate mail stops should also be used. See the notice titled "*Special Mail Stops For Patent Mail*" that is published each week in the Official Gazette Notices and posted on the USPTO Internet web site.

Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to [PatentPractice@uspto.gov](mailto:PatentPractice@uspto.gov), or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center (formerly the Patent Assistance Center (PAC)) by telephone at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357.

5. If applicants wish to request for an interview, an "*Applicant Initiated Interview Request*" form (PTOL-413A) should be submitted to the examiner prior to the interview in order to permit the examiner to prepare in advance for the interview and to focus on the issues to be discussed. This form should identify the participants of the interview, the proposed date of the interview, whether the interview will be personal, telephonic, or video conference, and should include a brief description of the issues to be discussed. A copy of the completed "*Applicant Initiated Interview Request*" form should be attached to the Interview Summary form, PTOL-413 at the completion of the interview and a copy should be given to applicant or applicant's representative.

**6. Establishment of Mail Stop Post Issue; Revision and Deletion of Certain Mail Stops**

Effective April 27, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has established a new mail stop, Mail Stop Post Issue, and several mail stops have been deleted, or changed. Correspondence that should be directed to Mail Stop Post Issue includes correspondence in applications that have issued as a patent, such as requests for changes of address (other than a fee address, which should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence), powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney, and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501.

The mail stops that should no longer be used are: Mail Stop Application Number; Mail Stop CPA; Mail Stop Design; Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment; Mail Stop Patent Application; and Mail Stop Provisional Patent Application.

Correspondence that would have been addressed to these mail stops no longer needs a specific mail stop. Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment has been changed to Mail Stop Amendment. Mail Stop PGPUB-ABD has been changed to Mail Stop Express Abandonment and all requests and petitions for an express abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138 should be directed to this mail stop.

Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to [PatentPractice@uspto.gov](mailto:PatentPractice@uspto.gov), or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center (formerly the Patent Assistance Center (PAC)) by telephone at (800)786-9199, or (703)308-4357.

## **7. Oversized Postcards Must Be Submitted With Sufficient Postage**

Recently, a number of return receipt postcards have been returned to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Office) because the postcards contained insufficient postage for an oversized postcard. Oversized postcards require First-Class letter postage. Customers are reminded that they are solely responsible for placing the proper postage on self-addressed postcards that are submitted to the Office for the purpose of obtaining a receipt for correspondence being filed in the Office. Customers should be aware of the following guidance from the USPS regarding postage and acceptability for postcards:

{A} In order to be eligible for the First-Class Mail card rates (currently \$0.23 per card, domestic delivery), cards must be of uniform thickness and made of unfolded and uncreased paper or card stock of approximately the quality and weight of a Postal Service stamped card. Cards claimed at the First-Class postcard rate must be:

- (a) Rectangular;
- (b) No less than 3-1/2 inches high, 5 inches long, and 0.007 inch thick; and
- (c) No more than 4-1/4 inches high, 6 inches long, and 0.016 inch thick.

{B} Cards that measure more than 4-1/4 inches high, 6 inches long, or 0.016 inch thick are charged postage at the First-Class Mail letter rates.

Cards that measure less than 3-1/2 inches high, 5 inches long, and 0.007 inch thick are nonmailable.

Any return receipt postcard that does not contain sufficient postage or is not acceptable may not be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to the address provided on the postcard, and, if returned to the Office, may be discarded.

For information regarding the Office's postcard receipt practice in patent-related matters, see *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP) (8<sup>th</sup> Ed., Rev. 1, Feb. 2003), Section 503. Questions regarding sufficient postage for postcards should be directed to the United States Postal Service. Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to [PatentPractice@uspto.gov](mailto:PatentPractice@uspto.gov), or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center by telephone at (800)786-9199, or (703)308-4357. 07/01/04

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **WILLIAM D CUMMING** whose telephone number is 703-305-4394. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 10:30am to 8:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **WILLIAM TROST** can be reached on 703-308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Cumming", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

WILLIAM CUMMING  
PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 260